



Civil Air Patrol Missions

For more than 50 years, the Civil Air Patrol has aggressively performed the missions Congress mandated in 1946: Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services.

Aerospace Education

America's love of manned flight started with the Wright



brothers and continues unabated during this century. World War II showcased the important role aviation would play in the future and national leaders recognized the importance of stimulating public interest in aerospace activities.

CAP, as the civilian Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, was most suited to perform this mission. Their efforts focused on two different audiences — internal CAP members and the general public.

The internal programs ensure that all CAP members (seniors and cadets) have an appreciation for and knowledge of aerospace issues. A rigorous educational program is tied to promotions at



**“CAP ... a liaison between
the planners of our air strength
and our pilots and navigators of tomorrow ...
We must pass on our air experience — not only
in the Air Forces,
but in every section of the country.”**

Gen. Carl Spaatz
Former Chairman, CAP National Board



every level in the CAP organization.

Aerospace educators working out of CAP's National Headquarters at Maxwell AFB, Ala., provide materials that are current and reflect the highest standards of educational excellence.

The congressional charter also tasked CAP to stimulate public interest in aerospace issues. These external programs are primarily conducted through our nation's education systems.

Each year, CAP sponsors workshops in colleges and universities across the nation which reach thousands of educators.

These workshops highlight basic aerospace knowledge and focus on advances in aerospace technology. Textbooks, learning tools, and visual aids geared to stimulate interest in aerospace matters also are provided for teachers to use in their classrooms.

Started in 1951, these workshops have reached hundreds of thousands of young people.

CAP also plans and executes the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education. NCASE is the premier aerospace edu-

**"Your final mission is the cadet program.
There, your job is to inspire the country's youth
to become leaders and good citizens
through their interest in aerospace.
And to me, that is by far,
your most important mission."**

General Donald J. Kutyna, U.S. Air Force
Commander-in-Chief,
Former North American Aerospace Defense Command
and U.S. Space Command



cation conference held in the nation. The NCASE is designed to promote an understanding of aviation and space education to motivate and encourage teachers to incorporate aerospace education into their curriculum. It also encourages aerospace leaders to speak out on aerospace issues facing our nation today.

Cadet Programs

During World War II, CAP trained thousands of young men to fly before they joined the Army Air Forces. This training, coupled with positive values instilled by role models, resulted in the AAF having a pool of aviators virtually ready to do battle.

After the war, the success of the wartime cadet program convinced Congress that a peacetime cadet program would pay great dividends.

For the past half-century, CAP's Cadet Programs has provided young people between 12 and 18 the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through their interest in aviation. For many, it has also offered them the opportunity to learn to fly.

A knowledge of aerospace-related information is one



of the pillars of the program. Cadets progress at their own pace through a 15-step program including aerospace education, leadership training, physical fitness and moral leadership.

As cadets make progress, they have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities including encampments on military bases, orientation flights, and a variety of national and international activities.

Through its National Scholarship Program, CAP provides scholarships to cadets to further their studies in such areas as engineering, science, aircraft mechanics and aerospace medicine. Scholarships leading to solo flight training are also provided.

The U.S. Air Force recognizes the high standards the cadets must meet. When CAP cadets enlist in the Air Force, they now enter as an E-3 (Airman First Class) instead of as an airman basic.

CAP cadets are also well represented at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Usually 8-10 percent of the academy class is composed of former CAP cadets.



Emergency Services

Growing from its World War II experience, the Civil Air Patrol has continued to strive to save lives and alleviate human suffering through a myriad of emergency service missions.

Search and Rescue (SAR): Perhaps best known for its search and rescue efforts, CAP now flies more than 85 percent of all inland SAR missions directed by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Overseas, CAP supports the Joint Rescue Coordination

**"Civil Air Patrol is always the first unit in
and usually the last unit out
when a real disaster occurs. They are very
well trained and always respond quickly."**

Toby Carroll
Corporate Safety Evaluation Director,
Continental Airlines
Guardian Angel '91 Exercise

Centers in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Just how effective are the CAP missions? Approximately 100 people are saved every year by CAP members!

Disaster Relief: Often overlooked, but vitally important is the role CAP plays in disaster relief operations. CAP provides air and ground transportation, and an extensive communications network. They fly disaster relief officials to remote locations, and support local, state and national disaster relief organizations with manpower and leadership. In fact, CAP has formal agreements with many humanitarian relief agencies such as the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, and Coast Guard.

Humanitarian Services: Closely related to disaster relief is CAP's support of humanitarian missions. Usually in support of the Red Cross, CAP aircrews transport time-sensitive medical materials including blood and human tissue in situations where other means of transportation are not possible.



Other Missions

Air Force Support: It's hardly surprising that CAP performs several missions in direct support of the U.S. Air Force. Specifically, CAP conducts damage assessment, radiological monitoring, light transport, communications support, and low-altitude route surveys.

Joint U.S. Air Force and CAP SAR exercises sharpen the skills of all participants and offer realistic training for a deadly serious mission.





Counterdrugs: CAP joined the “war on drugs” in 1986 when CAP signed an agreement with the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Customs Service offering CAP resources to be used to stem the flow of drugs into and within the United States. Today, CAP has similar agreements with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Forest Service.

CAP has made major contributions to the counterdrug fight by providing aerial reconnaissance, airborne communication support and airlift of law enforcement personnel. Each year, CAP units fly approximately 40,000 hours in support of counterdrug efforts.



“The war on drugs is a battle of such vast proportion that we may not yet recognize its scale ... We need mandatory drug education to get our youth pointed in the right direction. Our young people need to know how to resist peer pressure, to learn self-respect and pride — just like Civil Air Patrol teaches its cadets.”

Ernie Preate, Jr.
Former Pennsylvania Attorney General

CAP/AFROTC Initiative

Starting in 1993, CAP became more closely involved in direct support of the Air Force ROTC. Joint efforts have been established to conduct crossflow educational and orientation flights with Air Force ROTC, benefiting both organizations through better use of each one’s training resources.